

- II. Claims 11-16, drawn to methods of identifying NIMR expression modulators by determining the ability of a test compound to modulate expression of an NIMR polypeptide, classified in class 436, subclass 501.
- III. Claims 19, 25, 26, 33-38 drawn to methods of decreasing the virulence of, or treating an infection by, a microbe, or of reducing mar A mediated transcription of an NIMR gene, comprising exposing the microbe to an environmental challenge and a modulator of NIMR activity, classified in class 424, subclass 139.1.
- IV. Claim 20 drawn to methods of reducing marA mediated transcription of an NIMR gene, comprising exposing the microbe to an environmental challenge and a modulator of NIMR activity, classified in class 424, subclass 139.1.
- V. Claims 21-29, drawn to methods of identifying NIMR activity modulators by determining the ability of a test compound to bind to an isolated NIMR polynucleotide, classified in class 436, subclass 501.
- VI. Claim 30, drawn to a vaccine comprising at least one NIMR polypeptide and an acceptable carrier, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
- VII. Claim 30, drawn to a vaccine comprising at least one NIMR polypeptide and an acceptable carrier, classified in class 514, subclass 2.
- VIII. Claims 31 and 32, drawn to compositions comprising a compound that modulates NIMR activity, classified in class 439, subclass 139.1.

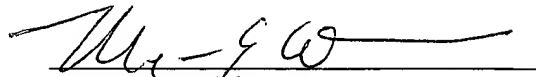
Applicants hereby elect the Group III invention (claims 19, 25, 26, 33-38) for prosecution in this application, *without traverse*.

The Examiner has further required that, if Group III is elected, Applicants are required to elect one of the inventions listed in Claim 26 as filed. Applicants elect *nfnB* for search purposes only. It is Applicant's understanding that the search will be extended to the remaining species upon a finding of allowability.

Applicants reserve the right to traverse the restriction between the non-elected groups in this or a separate application.

Respectfully submitted,

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